letters to the Chief Ministers of the States as also the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women for appintment as High Court Judges.

(d) There is transparency in the functioning of the judiciary.

Suggestions of Law Commission for electroal reforms

121. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has made some suggestions for electoral reforms;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what it Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS. (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The Law Commission has not made any suggestion to the Government on electoral reforms. The Commission, however, has circulated a working paper containing some proposals on electroal reforms for soliciting views of various political parties, Election Commission, Legislatures, etc.

Introduction of Electronic Voting Machines

122. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make a mid-term updating of voter lists all over the country;

(b) if so, the methodology proposed to be adopted for the purpose;

(c) whether steps are being taken to introduce electronic voting machines and voting process in the entire country;

(d) if so, the target date fixed for the purpose; and

(e) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has issued orders for a special revision of electoral rolls with 1.1.99 as the qualifying date. The process of Special Revision is scheduled to commence with the draft publication of the rolls on 10th April, 1999. In the States of MP and Tripura, the process of summary revision of electoral rolls has already commenced with the publication of draft rolls on 8th and 9th February, 1999. For the revision of electroal rolls in respect of Assam, Bihar and J&K, no decision has yet been taken by the Commission. The strategy to be adopted by the Commission for the aforesaid special revision, include:—

(i) organisation of special compaigns to assist electors in filing claims/ objections to the draft roll.

(ii) full complement of staff representing Electoral Registration Officer to be present at the designated locations.

(iii) intensive Awareness Compaign to inform and educate electors and political parties.

(iv) utilisation of computerised rolls as draft rolls.

(v) special compaign days scheduled to fall on Saturdays and Sundays.

(c) to (e) The Commission has already taken steps to use the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for the conduct of elections. These machines have already been used successfully in 16 Assembly Constituencies comprising 2930 polling stations at the General Elections to Legislative Assembly of the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi held in November, 1998. The Commission is keen to use EVMs at elections to the maximum extent possible. However, due to limited availability of these machines (1.5 lakhs EVMs), these can not to used in the entire country at present. No target date can be fixed for the use of EVMs in the entire country.

महिलाओं को शीघ्र न्याय दिलाया जाना

123. **श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: क्या विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) दिसम्बर, 1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार देश के विभि न्यायालयों में हिन्दू विवाह अधिनियम और महिलाओं के शोषज से संबंधित कितने मामले लंबित पड़े हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार न्यायालयों में लंबित मामलों का शीघ्र निपटान और महिलाओं को शीघ्र न्याय दिलाना सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई योजना बना रही है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एम. थम्बी दुरई): (क) से (घ) अपेक्षित जानकारी एकत्रित की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति के लिए राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक आयोग

124. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** क्या विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति हेतु राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक आयोग की स्थापना करने के संबंध में सरकार का क्या विचार है;

(ख) न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति के मुद्दे पर राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पाये गये मतभेद का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति में ऊंचे स्तर पर हस्तक्षेप किया जाता है?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एम. थम्बी दुरई): (क) शासन के लिए राष्ट्रीय कार्यसूची की मदों में से एक मद, उच्चतम न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों में न्यायिक नियुक्तियों के लिए सिफारिशें करने और न्याय पालिका के लिए एक आचरण संहिता तैयार करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक आयोग का गठन करना है।

(ख) और (ग) उच्चतम न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों के न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति, भारत के संविधान के सुसंगत उपबंधों के अनुसार की जाती है। सरकार को न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति में किसी स्तर पर मत वैभिनय या हस्तक्षेप की जानकारी नहीं है।

Recommendations of the high powered committee on electoral funding

125. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the high prowered committee on electroal funding;

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to create an election fund for funding of election for candidates of recognised parties?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) A statement containing the gist of recommendations made by the Committee on State Funding of Elections is laid on the Table of the House. (*see* below) The recommendations of the Committee would be discussed with political parties.

Statement

Gist of Recommendations of Committee on State Funding of Elections

1. **State Funding of Elections :**

The Committee has recommended, to begin with, only partial State assistance, in kind only in the form of certain facilities, to recognised polictical parties in way that it provides them relief not only in carrying out their electoral activities and meeting partly the cost of essential items of electioneering campaigns of their candidates, but also helps them partially in the current administration of their day to day functioning during non-election period. Gradually, more and more of their expenses' burden can be progressively shifted to the State so that ultimately all their legitimate expenses become a charge on the State. In this respect, the Committee has recommended creation of a separate Eleciton Fund to which the Central Government may contribute at the rate of Rs. 10/- per elector *i.e.* about Rs. 600 crores annually. The State Governments also, all taken together, may contribute proportionately Rs. 600 crores annually to the Fund.

In its report, the Committee has also specified the nature of facilities to be provided to the recognised political parties and their candidates at State cost. These incldue:—

(I) For Recognised Political Parties:

(i) Suitable rent-free accommodation for its headquarter.

(ii) One rent-free telephone, with STD facility with a specified number of telephone calls over and above the free calls permitted to any subscriber.